

**Chile-U.S. FTA Joint Press Statement by the Chilean and United States Delegations
at the Conclusion of the Fourth Meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council
Santiago, Chile**

The fourth meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council was held in Santiago, Chile on April 24, 2008. At the end of this meeting, the following press statement was issued jointly by Chilean and United States Delegations:

The U.S.-Chile Environmental Affairs Council met in Santiago, Chile at the Ministry of Foreign Relations to discuss implementation of the Environment Chapter of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA).

The Director of Environment, Antarctic, and Maritime Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Chile and the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science of the U.S. State Department chaired the meeting. They were joined by the U.S. Ambassador to Chile and the Executive Director of the National Commission for the Environment (CONAMA).

Participants in the meeting included officials of the U.S. State Department, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), and the U.S. Embassy in Chile. Chilean participants included officials of the Ministry of Foreign Relations (Directorate of International Economic Affairs and Directorate of Environment, Antarctic, and Maritime Affairs), and the National Commission for the Environment.

For the first time at an Environmental Affairs Council meeting, representatives of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC), a USTR advisory committee, and the Advisory Council of CONAMA, attended and discussed experiences in providing advice on implementation of environment chapters and trade and environmental policies. The Parties discussed implementation of the FTA Environment Chapter; cooperative activities undertaken to date under the Chapter and under the ECA and ideas for projects that could be included in the Work Program for 2009-2010.

A Special Session was then held between representatives of TEPAC, the Executive Director of the Humane Society International, and an Associate of Venable LLP; and the CONAMA Advisory Council, Study Administrator of the Chilean Chamber of Construction and The Project Director at the University of Chile. This session was opened and coordinated jointly by the Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative and the Executive Director of CONAMA.

A public session was held in the afternoon, and was well attended by various civil society sectors of the Santiago and Regions and of the United States, underscoring the importance of public participation. Article 19.4 of the FTA provides for the receipt, consideration, and responses to public communications related to implementation of the Environment Chapter. During this session, government officials and members of the

Advisory Committees furnished information to the public and the press on the activities undertaken, while members of the public commented on the projects and offered suggestions for the next Work Program.

In reviewing and evaluating the activities carried out during the Fourth Meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council, the Parties were enthusiastic about the results of the meeting and historic exchange between the advisory committees and agreed that this experience could serve as a model for the implementation of other agreements in the Region.

These activities reaffirmed the commitments of Chile and the United States to enforce their respective environmental rules and regulations effectively, to protect the environment and natural resources and to strive for sustainable development.

This meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council further illustrates the strong commitment of both countries to meaningful public participation and transparency in the implementation of their FTA obligations.